

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. A method for sharing a security context between different sessions on a database server, comprising:
 - receiving a request at the database server through a database session between the database server and an application on a database client;
 - looking up an identifier for an application client that identifies a client of the application, the identifier having been previously associated with the database session;
 - using the identifier to look up the security context for the application client within a storage area associated with the database server;
 - wherein the security context includes attributes related to the application client; and
 - performing a database operation to satisfy the request;
 - wherein performing the database operation involves enforcing access rights associated with the security context.
 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the request includes a database query directed to a database on the database server.
 3. The method of claim 2, wherein performing the database operation involves modifying the database query to enforce access rights associated with the security context.
 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier for the application client identifies a user of the application that is sending the request to the database server.

1 5. The method of claim 1,
2 wherein the database client is an application server that is sending the
3 request to the database server; and
4 wherein the identifier for the application client identifies an application
5 session between the application on the application server and the client of the
6 application.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 receiving a request from the application to change the application session
3 associated with the database session; and
4 changing the application session associated with the database session.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising facilitating connection
2 pooling by periodically changing the application session associated with the
3 database session in order to channel requests associated with multiple application
4 sessions through the database session.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to receiving the request the
2 method further comprises:
3 receiving the security context for the application client from the database
4 client; and
5 inserting the security context into the storage area associated with the
6 database server so that the security context can be indexed by the identifier for the
7 application client.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing the application
2 client to use the same security context through a second application and a second
3 database session by:

4 receiving a second request at the database server through the second
5 database session with the second application;

6 looking up the identifier for the application client, the identifier having
7 been previously associated with the second database session; and

8 using the identifier to look up the security context for the application client
9 within the storage area associated with the database server.

1 10. A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that
2 when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for sharing
3 a security context between different sessions on a database server, the method
4 comprising:

5 receiving a request at the database server through a database session
6 between the database server and an application on a database client;

7 looking up an identifier for an application client that identifies a client of
8 the application, the identifier having been previously associated with the database
9 session;

10 using the identifier to look up the security context for the application client
11 within a storage area associated with the database server;

12 wherein the security context includes attributes related to the application
13 client; and

14 performing a database operation to satisfy the request;

15 wherein performing the database operation involves enforcing access
16 rights associated with the security context.

1 11. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the
2 request includes a database query directed to a database on the database server.

1 12. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein
2 performing the database operation involves modifying the database query to
3 enforce access rights associated with the security context.

1 13. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the
2 identifier for the application client identifies a user of the application that is
3 sending the request to the database server.

1 14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10,
2 wherein the database client is an application server that is sending the
3 request to the database server; and
4 wherein the identifier for the application client identifies an application
5 session between the application on the application server and the client of the
6 application.

1 15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the
2 method further comprises:
3 receiving a request from the application to change the application session
4 associated with the database session; and
5 changing the application session associated with the database session.

1 16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the
2 method further comprises facilitating connection pooling by periodically changing
3 the application session associated with the database session in order to channel

1 requests associated with multiple application sessions through the database
2 session.

1 17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein prior
2 to receiving the request, the method further comprises:
3 receiving the security context for the application client from the database
4 client; and
5 inserting the security context into the storage area associated with the
6 database server so that the security context can be indexed by the identifier for the
7 application client.

1 18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the
2 method allows the application client to use the same security context through a
3 second application and a second database session by:
4 receiving a second request at the database server through the second
5 database session with the second application;
6 looking up the identifier for the application client, the identifier having
7 been previously associated with the second database session; and
8 using the identifier to look up the security context for the application client
9 within the storage area associated with the database server.

1 19. An apparatus that facilitates sharing a security context between
2 different sessions on a database server, comprising:
3 a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive a request at the
4 database server through a database session between the database server and an
5 application on a database client;

6 a lookup mechanism that is configured to look up an identifier for an
7 application client that identifies a client of the application, the identifier having
8 been previously associated with the database session;
9 wherein the lookup mechanism is configured to use the identifier to look
10 up the security context for the application client within a storage area associated
11 with the database server;
12 wherein the security context includes attributes related to the application
13 client; and
14 a database engine that is configured to perform a database operation to
15 satisfy the request;
16 wherein performing the database operation involves enforcing access
17 rights associated with the security context.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the request includes a database
2 query directed to a database on the database server.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the database engine is
2 configured to perform the database operation by modifying the database query to
3 enforce access rights associated with the security context.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the identifier for the
2 application client identifies a user of the application that is sending the request to
3 the database server.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 19,
2 wherein the database client is an application server that is sending the
3 request to the database server; and

4 wherein the identifier for the application client identifies an application
5 session between the application on the application server and the client of the
6 application.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the receiving mechanism is
2 additionally configured to receive a request from the application to change the
3 application session associated with the database session; and
4 further comprising a changing mechanism that is configured to change the
5 application session associated with the database session in response to the request.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the changing mechanism is
2 further configured to facilitate connection pooling by periodically changing the
3 application session associated with the database session in order to channel
4 requests associated with multiple application sessions through the database
5 session.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the receiving mechanism is
2 further configured to receive the security context for the application client from
3 the database client; and
4 further comprising a security context initialization mechanism that is
5 configured to insert the security context into the storage area associated with the
6 database server so that the security context can be indexed by the identifier for the
7 application client.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 19,

1 wherein the receiving mechanism is further configured to receive a second
2 request at the database server through a second database session between the
3 database server and a second application; and
4 wherein the lookup mechanism is further configured to look up the
5 identifier for the application client, the identifier having been previously
6 associated with the second database session; and
7 wherein the lookup mechanism is further configured to use the identifier to
8 look up the security context for the application client within the storage area
9 associated with the database server.